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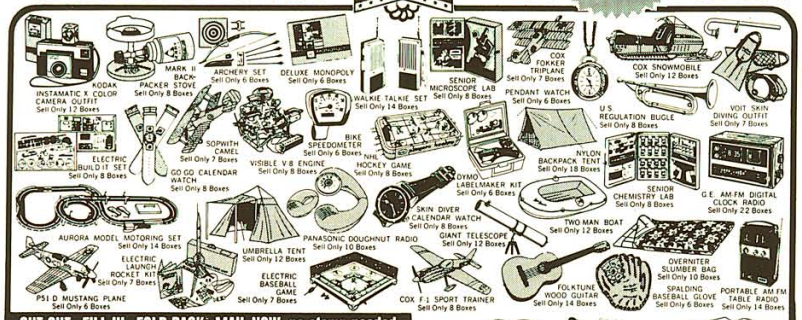

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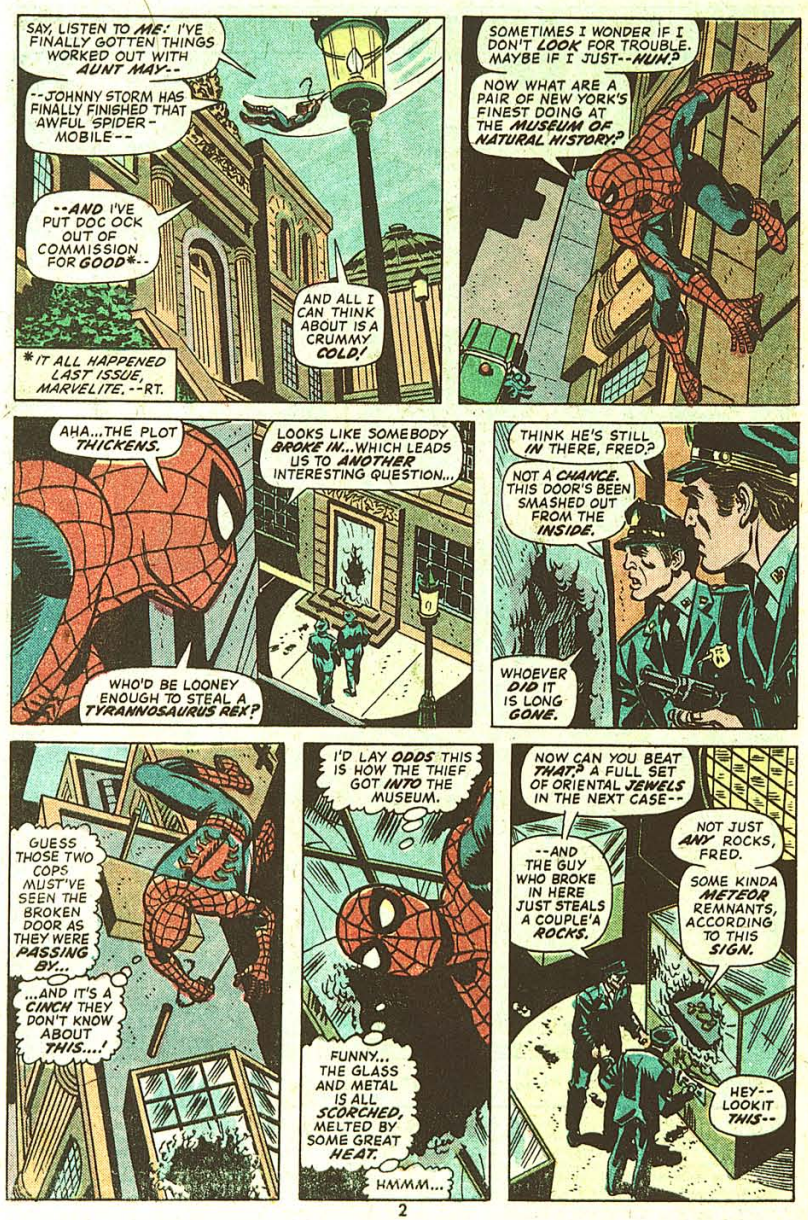

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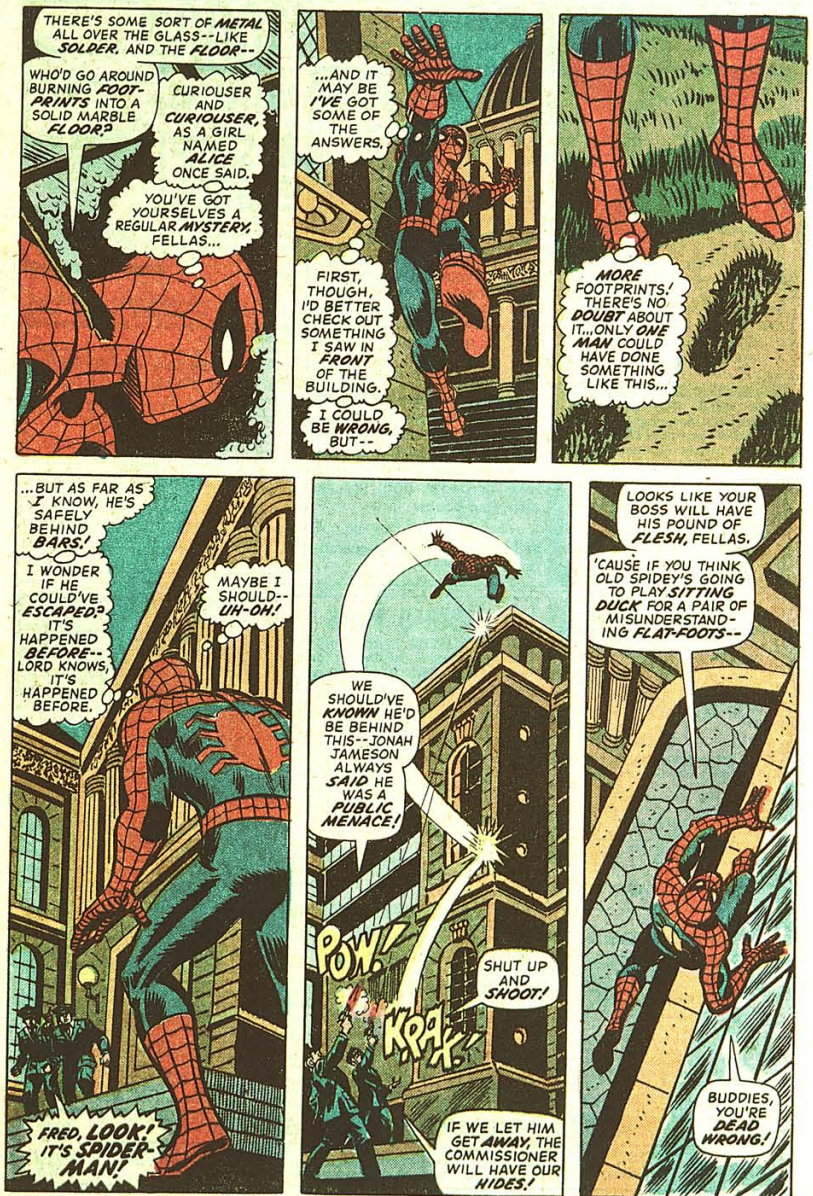

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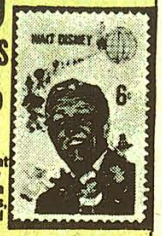

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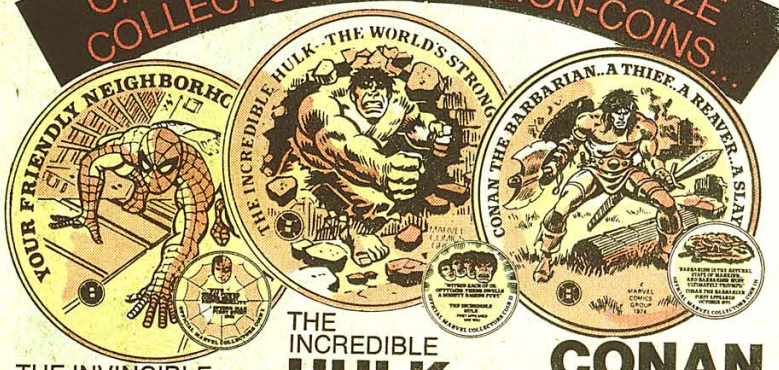

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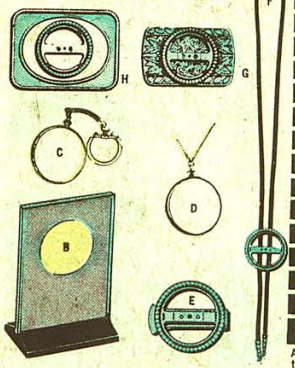

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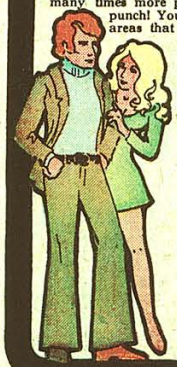

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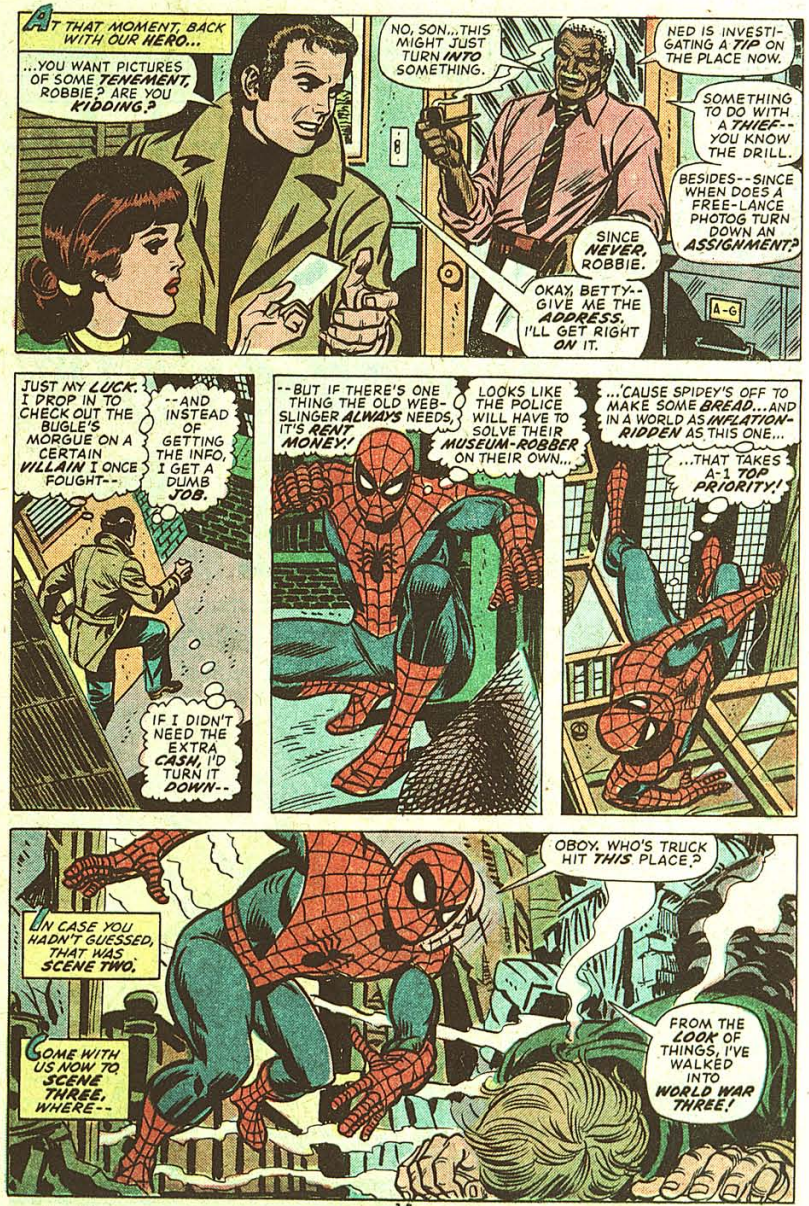

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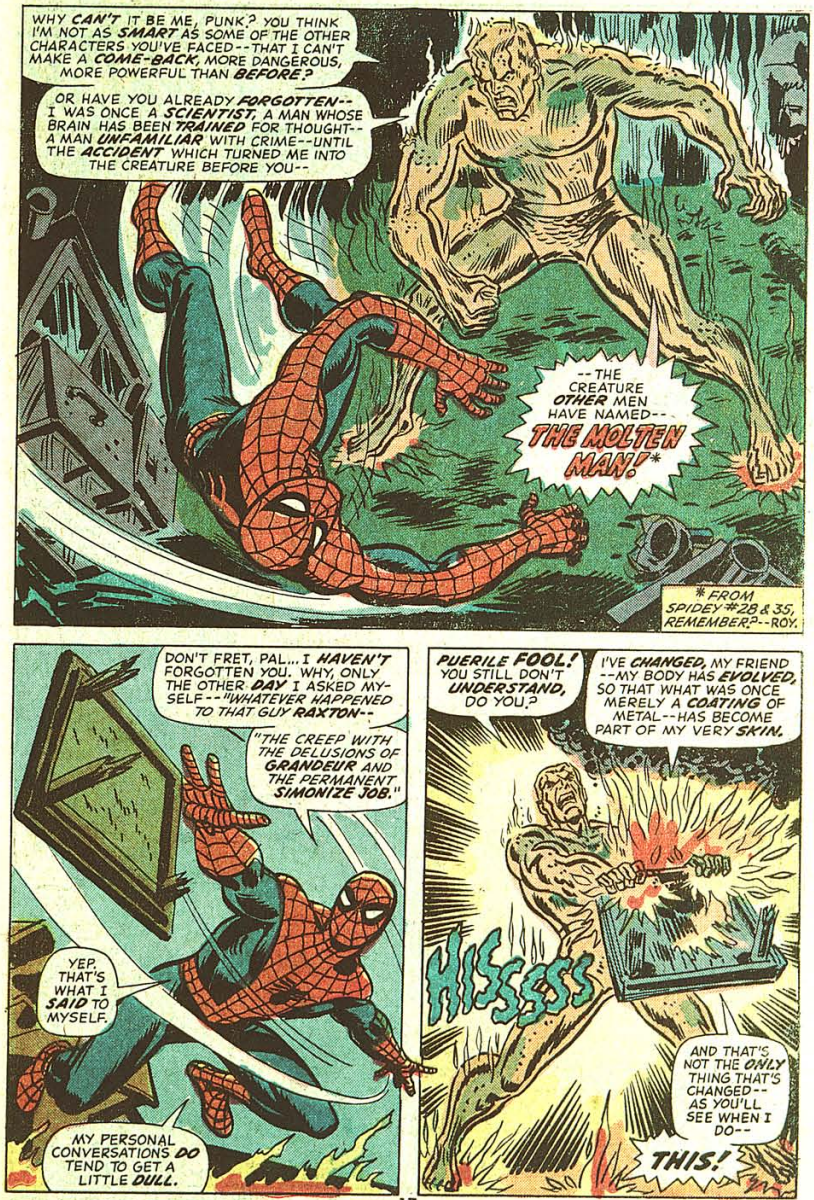

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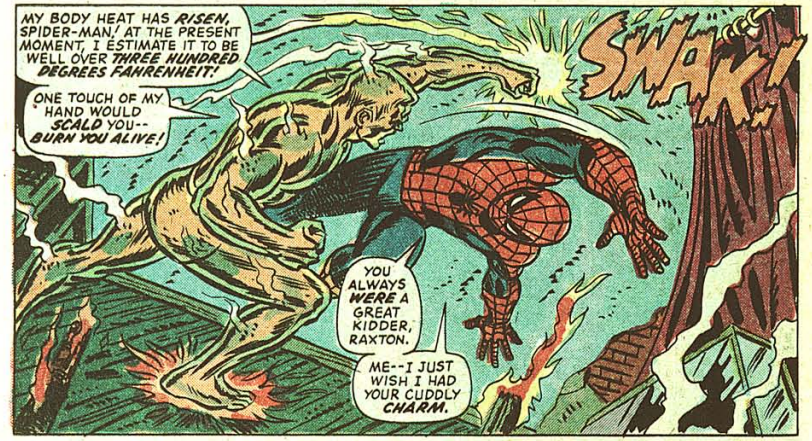

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THE SPIDER'S WEB

SEND YOUR LETTERS TO:
THE MARVEL COMICS GROUP, SIXTH FLOOR, 575 MADISON AV., NEW YORK, N. Y. 10022

Dear Gerry and Ross,

SPIDER-MAN #127 is the biggest milestone ish to come along since Gwen Stacy and Norman Osborn's deaths in the two-parter of five issues ago. Since then, Spidey's drifted, bearing with Flash, humoring M.J., avoiding clashes with Harry, and giving out with an ever-sounding cry of his feelings for lost Gwen. Now, at last, things are happening. We know that even though Norman Osborn is dead, the Green Goblin isn't, and that Harry Osborn is completely flipped out. We are also faced with another stark reality—that of the Vulture, who is a murderer, which, believe me, is a lot more shocking than it sounds. And we've gotten our first view of what makes merry Ms. Watson tick!

Mary Jane is fast becoming my favorite character in the SPIDER-MAN book. This issue reinforces that. Since Gwen died and Peter began drifting, losing sight of his life as Parker in favor of his life as Spider-Man (another conflict flaring up in this ish, with Prof. Warren), Mary Jane has shown us all that her egotistical, sarcastic self was merely a put-on for a very tender-hearted interior; as Joni Mitchell said, in Clouds, "And if you care, don't let it show..."

Mary Jane is basically that way. Seeing her directly after viewing the Vulture's murderous rage, and seeing her deny it later, just proves that M.J. isn't as rock-hard as we all thought—she's covering up; she doesn't want to be weak... but she is. I can admire her, because for all her insecurities, she actually gives of herself, and has devoted almost all of her time to Peter in a vain attempt to cheer him up.

M.J. is a real heroine, the best. Marvel's got. Without her, would there even be a SPIDER-MAN worth reading? Probably not. I think you ought to reflect on that. Then reflect some more.

By the way, Ross Andru is merely magnificent. His art is some of the best Marvel's had in a LONG time, and he is getting better every day. John Romita will be missed...but as long as Ross is pencilling away, he won't be missed as much.

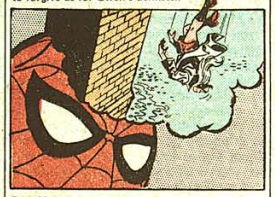
Bob Rodi
34 Chatham Lane
Oak Brook, Ill.

Gerry and Ross can only say "thanks", Bob, for the in-depth psychological profile on Mary Jane, and, too, for the kind words you've bestowed upon them.

Just one thing, though...if you've learned anything about SPIDER-MAN by now, it's surely that no comics magazine has ever been more unpredictable. So, although we expect you'll be seeing much more of M.J. as time goes by, don't be too surprised if Pete's romantic life suddenly veers off in a heretofore unsuspected direction. Conway refuses to be specific, but he tells us that there are some new and old characters waiting in the wings, just listening for their cues to enter or re-enter Mr. Parker's topsy-turvy existence.

You have been warned. So be it.

Meanwhile, just in case anybody out there believed that Marveldom had unanimously voted to forgive us for Gwen's demise...



Dear Marvel,

In order to make your comics more interesting, and since it worked so well in SPIDER-MAN, we of the Late Gwen Stacy Fan Club, Valley Stream chapter, have decided to send you a list of other ideas to help increase your sales.

In other words, rub out the following people: Sif, Clea, Pepper Hogan, Natasha Romanoff, Sue Richards, Lissa Russell, Betty Talbot, Sharon Carter, Peggy Carter, Claire Temple, Leila, the Scarlet Witch, Mary Jane Watson, Jean Grey, Namora, Roxanne Simpson, Martis, La Contessa Valentina Allegro de Fontaine, Jennifer Kale.

We believe this will greatly help your circulation. What the heck, if you killed Gwen, why not the rest?

Jaime Cruz
Victor D'Angelo
(no address given)

Great idea, guys! We'll get right on it!

Dear Marvel,

Although I was one of those who objected to the death of Gwen Stacy (to the point of writing unprintables to Spider's Web), I must commend you on your treatment of the subject on your letters page (half page?).

You're not content with printing one unfavorable letter and the rest praise, like your Devilish Competitor would. Also, most of the time, depending on the editor (they have so many), that competitor tends to lash out unmercifully at a fan who definitely didn't like a story and went about saying so. (Although, I admit, some of the time the "fan" deserves it.) But you guys have never lost your cool so blatantly. In Marvel's letter columns, people don't have to be afraid to disagree for fear they'll be shamed into believing they were wrong. Marvel lets both sides voice their opinions. If it's a complimentary letter, the writer is thanked; and if it's a negative comment, the writer is still thanked, for his interest, and at the same time is told if and why you disagree, in whole or in part.

For this reason, I have come to admire the men of Marvel even more. It's nice to know I can disagree and not be shot down for it.

Peace.

Jim Huff
3712 Hackett Ave.
Long Beach, Ca. 90808

It's a simple matter of honesty, Jim. We're not perfect, and we know it. Our letters page policy is structured accordingly. Besides, these pages— and in fact, these magazines— are for you and your fellow fans! If we blow it somewhere along the line, we feel we need to know about it.

We can't blame you for resenting those editors who treat dissident fans as targets for their almighty wrath. But, truth to tell, we don't feel we should be praised for respecting you as human beings with differing individual viewpoints. Fer gosh sakes, Jim, that's like thanking somebody for the right to breathe!

Till next ish, folks, stay human. Stay different. Stay real. We wouldn't have you any other way.

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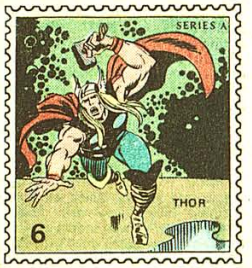

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2. Publication No.: 0590-630
3. Frequency of Issue: Monthly.
4. Location of Known Office of Publication: 575 Madison Ave., New York, N.Y. 10022.
5. Location of the Headquarters or General Business Offices of the Publishers: Marvel Comics Group, 575 Madison Ave., New York, N.Y. 10022.
6. Names and Addresses of Publisher, Editor, and Managing Editor are: Publisher: Stan Lee, 575 Madison Ave., New York, N.Y. 10022. Editor: Roy Thomas, 575 Madison Ave., New York, N.Y. 10022. Managing Editor: John Verpoorten, 575 Madison Ave., New York, N.Y. 10022.
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A. Total No. Copies Printed (net press run)	541,043	525,000
B. Paid Circulation: 1) Sales through dealers and carriers, street vendors and counter sales	Average no. copies each issue during preceding 12 months: 210,326.	21,000
2) Paid subscriptions	Average no. copies each issue during preceding 12 months: 273,204.	273,204
C. Total paid circulation	Average no. copies each issue during preceding 12 months: 483,530.	294,204
D. Free distribution by mail, carrier or other means, 1) Samples, complimentary, and other free copies: 150.	single issue nearest to filing date: 150.	
2) Copies distributed to news agents but not sold:	Average no. copies each issue during preceding 12 months: 247,238.	single issue nearest to filing date: 202,000.
E. Total free distribution (sum of D 1 and D 2—should equal net press run shown in A)	Average no. copies each issue during preceding 12 months: 247,388.	single issue nearest to filing date: 202,150.
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2) Return from news agents:	Average no. copies each issue during preceding 12 months: 541,043.	single issue nearest to filing date: 525,376.
G. Total (sum of E & F—should equal net press run shown in A)	Average no. copies each issue during preceding 12 months: 541,043.	single issue nearest to filing date: 525,376.

I certify that the statements made by me above are correct and complete.
(signed) John S. Ryan, Vice President, Director of Circulation

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A FEW SURPRISES—A SMATTERING OF SURMISES —AND A HINT ABOUT PRIZES!

ROY'S ROSTRUM

Sorry, people, but no STAN LEE'S SOAPBOX this time, 'cause Our Fearless Leader is out of town. Matter of fact, he's leapfroggin' all over *Europe*, but, more of that from The Man himself, soon as he recovers from jet lag!

Meanwhile, I thought this would be a good chance to answer one of the myriad questions which is asked in numerous letters every day: namely just who is the editorial staff of Marvel Comics, anyway?

Well, besides STAN and myself (who manage to keep busy, what with one thing and another), there's Marvelous MARV WOLFMAN, who — in addition to being Editor of our newest smash hit, CRAZY Magazine — basks in the title of Associate Editor. Right about now, Marv is spending virtually his full workday, and then some, on CRAZY and on our popular line of giant-sized mags, including our spanking-new biggie, THE DEADLY HANDS OF KUNG FU — of which more on our Bullpen Bonus Page!

As to our ever-enchanting color comics, they're mostly proofread and pondered over by Dutiful DON McGREGOR and our newest nabob, Devil-May-Care DOUG MOENCH, who just blew in from the Windy City! These two lads are classified officially as Assistant Editors — but they and Marv shoulder enough responsibilities to give Atlas a backache!

Oh yes — and we don't wanna forget Cute CARLA JOSEPH, who doubles as my secretary and as proofreader of our letters pages and reprints, in addition to a thousand-and-one other tasks that need doing!

And wouldja believe — with all those editorial types running around, the work keeps piling up!

Fact is, that's why our hard-working writers receive billing as Contributing Editors, as well: Merry GERRY CONWAY, who scripts several of our top mags each month; STEVE (Baby) GERBER, who labors over our letters pages, in addition to his other chores; Live-It-Up LEN WEIN, TONY (The Tiger) ISABELLA, and even such faraway stalwarts as Stainless STEVE ENGLEHART and Mischievous MIKE FRIEDRICH.

Pardon me for getting all dewy-eyed, but I truly don't believe that any editor in comics history was ever lucky enough to have assembled such a team of talented typewriter titans!

Now, if I could only persuade a guy named LEE to pound that battered old Remington of his, now and then — I'd have it made!

Salud!

Roy

ITEM! Here's an off-the-wall flash: You've doubtless heard of the block-bustin' new movie, THE GOLDEN VOYAGE OF SINBAD, now making the rounds at your local cinema. Well, only a few short weeks from now, by special arrangement with Columbia Pictures, mirthful Marvel will present its own full-color version of that instant film classic! See the movie — read the comic-mag — and if there aren't any bubble-gum cards to collect, don't blame *us*!

ITEM! Just a brief aside to thank those of you who rushed us the first Brobdingnagian batch of mail we've received on our mighty MARVEL VALUE STAMPS! It seems that, without really knowing it, half of Marveldom Assembled has been just waiting for something like this! And, by next month, we promise to clue you in on the first (but not the last) of several Bonus Benefits you can obtain once you've amassed a full collection of the first hundred stamps! Till then — keep those scissors well-oiled, effendi!

MARVEL MINI-ITEMS! Congrats to GERRY CONWAY (also known in the trade as GERARD F. CONWAY) on his newest s-f opus, *Mindship*, due out as a paperback from DAW Books right about now! At age 21 and with two published books (plus a whole passel of short stories) to his credit, Ger's the envy of the whole blamed Bullpen! • Speaking of Mr. C., he's teamed up with a fair-to-middlin' artist named JOHN ROMITA on the latest SPIDER-MAN — and the result is just short of fantastic! The Jazzy One's been dying to draw an issue for months now, but his back-bending chores as Marvel's Art Director have kept him busy on covers and such! Anyway, you've been clamoring for more of J.R.'s work all along — so let the guy know you care! • We kinda think you'll dig the new penciller on MAN-THING: a fella name of MIKE PLOOG, who's drawn every Marvel monster from WEREWOLF to FRANKENSTEIN and back again! Keep it up, Michael, and maybe one of these days we'll see if you still remember how to draw a *human being*! • Hey, wanna know what one member of the Bullpen thinks happened to those missing Watergate tapes? Well then, sneak a peek at the latest "War of the Worlds" epic in AMAZING ADVENTURES, as Don McGregor and Happy HERB TRIMPE finally let the cat out of the bag! • We were gonna mention something here about Vulcanizin' VICENTE ALCAZAR, whose recent artwork in DRACULA LIVES, THONGOR, and elsewhere is already earning him a whole horde of fans — about how he came here to Fun City from his native Spain — about how Nefarious NEAL ADAMS sent him around to us — and how we don't intend to let him get away. But, now we look around and he's flown the coop *back* to Madrid for a few months to get things in order (all the while turning out collector's items by the barrelful). So we think we'll save our plug for when he moves fulltime to the U.S. of A., okay?

ITEM THE LAST! Closing note: Here's a message in our brand new Code, as featured in the *4th* fabulous issue of FOOM Magazine, and thus decipherable only by accredited FOOM Members and selected FBI brass. It concerns still another 75¢ mag that'll be coming your way by the time spring rolls around, and we'll sock it to you in two short words:

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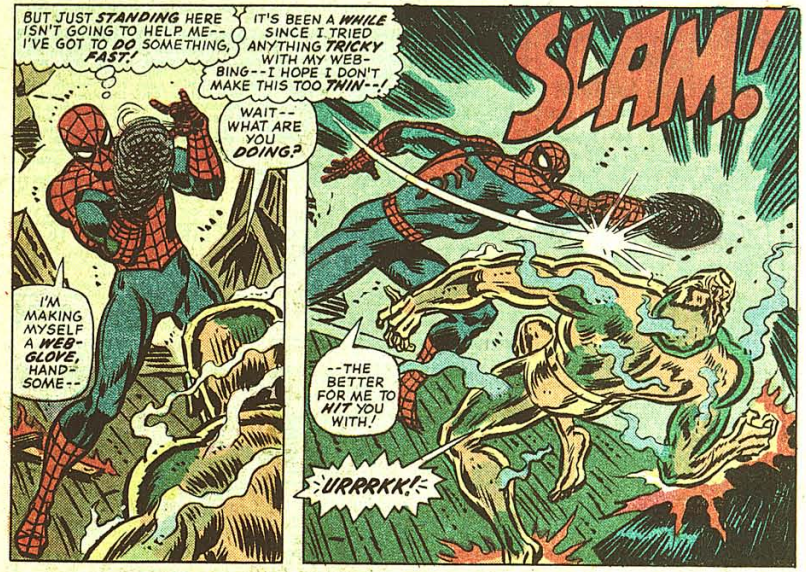

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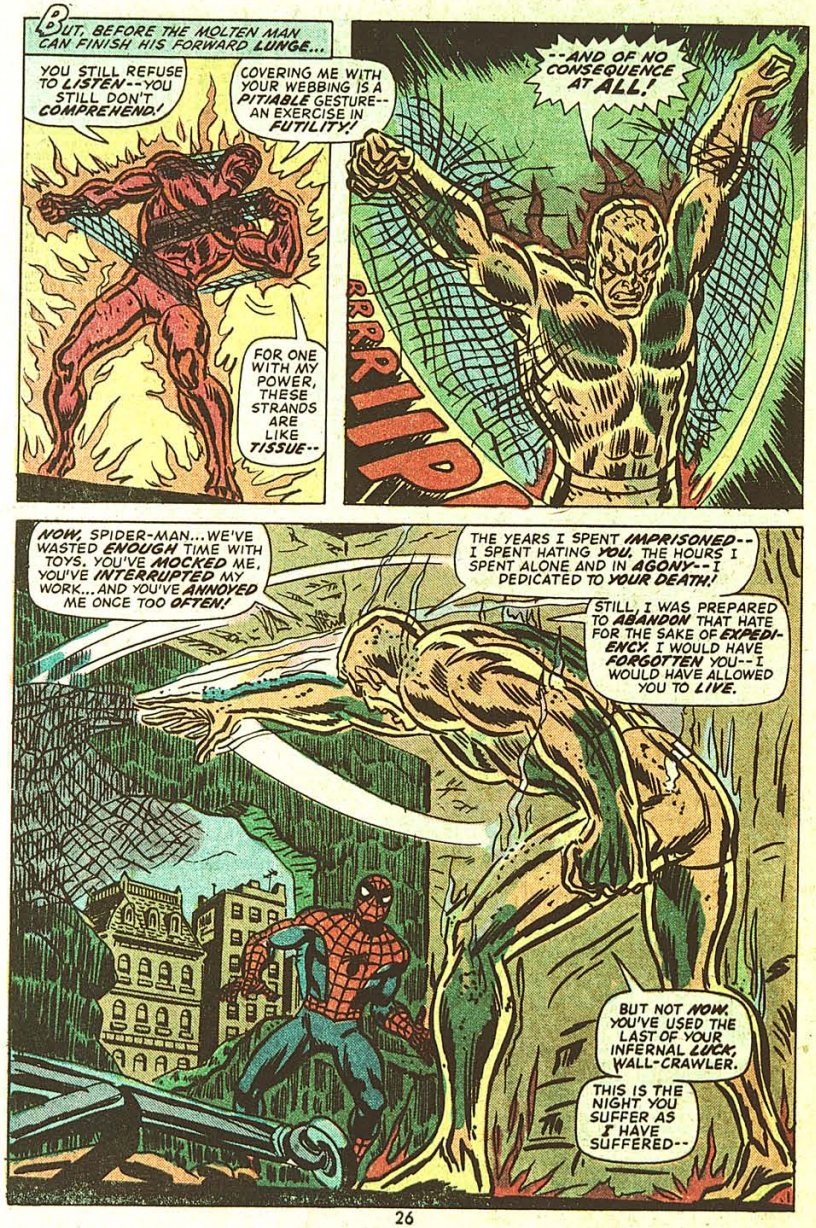

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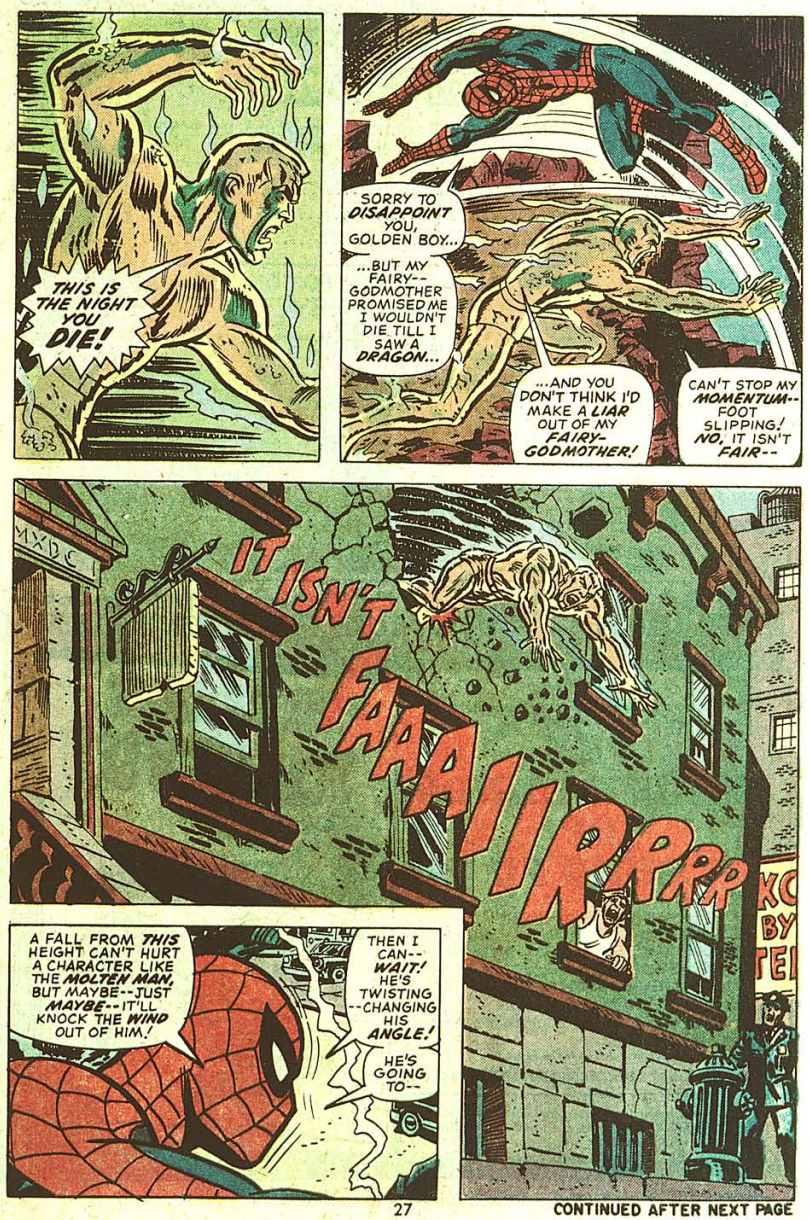

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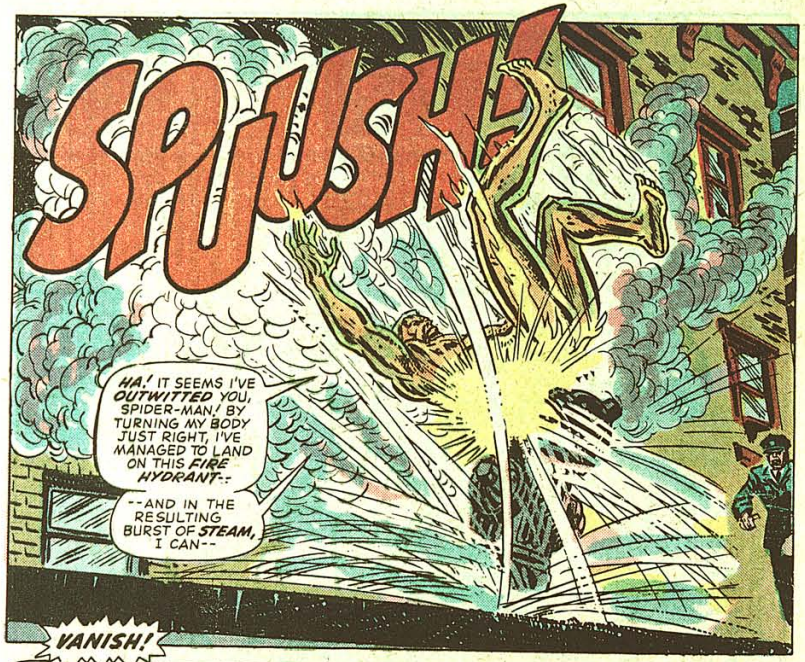

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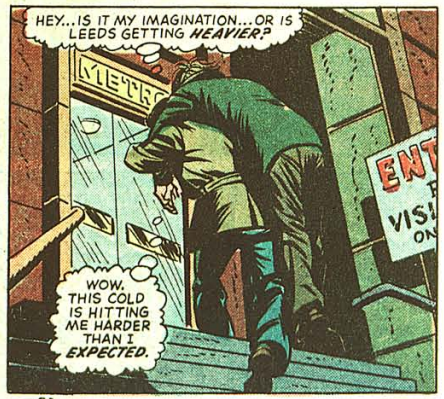

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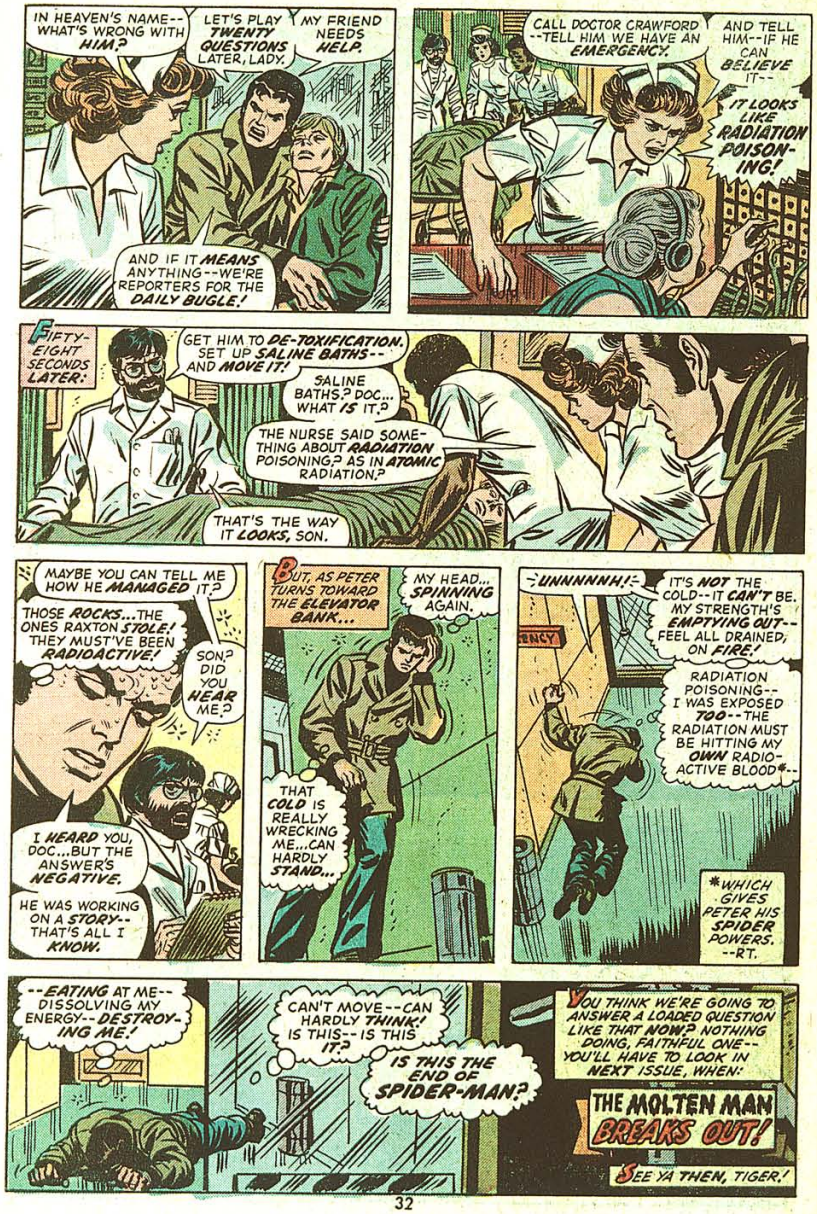

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